



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
(ENERGY, INSTALLATIONS AND ENVIRONMENT)
1000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20350-1000

March 3, 2017

Dr. Mary Abrams
Field Supervisor, Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
300 Ala Moana Boulevard
Room 3-122 Box 50088
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

Dear Dr. Abrams:

In accordance with Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and its implementing regulations [50 CFR Part 402], and per your verbal request of October 28, 2016, the Department of Navy (DON) is providing the enclosed revised biological assessment for the future military relocation to Guam. The revised biological assessment contains a restatement of all previously provided information during the course of this on-going consultation (March 10, 2015 to present), and includes additional new information that has been developed or discovered during the course of the consultation. The revised biological assessment contains all the required information to support formal consultation as described in the 50 CFR § 402.14(c) and the Endangered Species Consultation Handbook published by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

On July 31, 2015, the USFWS provided its biological opinion to the DON on the potential effects of the future military relocation action on species that were afforded ESA listing status at that time. Subsequent to the USFWS providing the DON with the 2015 Biological Opinion, the USFWS published its Final Rule determining ESA listing status for 23 species in the Mariana Islands. In anticipation of the listing, the DON submitted a conference assessment report on March 10, 2015, based on the known occurrence information provided in the Proposed Rule (October 1, 2014). Since that time, the DON conducted extensive surveys for listed species in, and proximate to, the project areas resulting in significant additional species occurrence data and information. The revised biological assessment considers this new data and provides updated information on the potential effects of the action on 11 of the 23 species listed in the Final Rule.

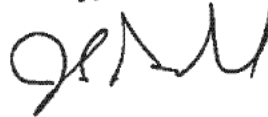
The DON and USFWS have been in formal consultation since February 2016 on these newly listed species. The enclosed revised biological assessment is provided as part of this on-going consultation and represents the best available data on the species at the time of its publication. Per Section 7(b)(1)(a), 50 CFR § 402.12(j), and section 4.4 (A) of the ESA Consultation Handbook, and in accordance with our agreed upon consultation schedule [Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Installations and Facilities) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Region 1, October 2016], we look forward to receiving confirmation of a

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complete and accurate consultation package within 30 days of receipt of this letter. We also look forward to continuing our regularly scheduled meetings with you and your team over the next 90 day consultation period, receiving and reviewing your draft biological opinion, and concluding this consultation 135 days from receipt of this letter, in accordance with the consultation schedule referenced above.

Due to the large file size of the revised biological assessment document, a separate email will be sent with a link to access and download the file. The DON's technical point of contact is Ms. Coralie Cobb, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Southwest. For technical questions, please contact her at (720) 542-3085 or email at (b) (6). I can be reached at (703) 602-3924 or (b) (6).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JPW', is written over the typed name.

Jeff Powell, PE, CEM
Commander, CEC, U.S. Navy

Copy to:
DASN (E)
HQMC (I&L), (PP&O)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Region